

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The following is a summary of the eleventh (February 1949) issue of the Hayat al-Hizb (The Party's Life), which is the internal bulletin for the Lebanese and Syrian Communist Parties. This bulletin was sold to Party members for 15 piasters.

1. The subject of this bulletin is "Attitude of the Communist Party in Syria and Lebanon toward Other Parties and Political Organizations," and the bulletin is intended to conclude the debate which arose recently in Party circles regarding the Party's stand toward other political groups in Syria and Lebanon.
2. The bulletin places primary emphasis on the fact that maneuvers and temporary "agreements" with the enemy are essential for the Party in its difficult struggle to reach its objectives. In support of this theory, the paper quotes liberally from Lenin on the expediency of employing tactical maneuvers until the time is propitious for crushing the enemy. Examples are quoted of the tactics employed by the Communists in America in their relations with Henry Wallace's Progressive Party, and those employed in other parts of the world. The bulletin explains the application of such tactics in Syria and Lebanon and illustrates the manner in which the Communists could expediently undertake joint action with local organizations.
3. The bulletin stress the point that the Communist Party's principle objectives may be realized ultimately only by eliminating the political authority of the ruling bourgeois class and, consequently, by destroying the bourgeois parties.
5. The bulletin then gives the following examples of how Marxist-Leninist teachings could be applied to the circumstances prevailing in Syria and Lebanon:

"We have said that it is necessary to handle each situation separately. But, let us suppose that in a Lebanese village there are young men who belong to the Phalange Party. It is evident that our Party fights the Phalange and exposes its

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destructive sectarian activities. It has a basic quarrel with the Phalange as a sectarian organization which has relations with Anglo-American and French imperialism. However, this should not prevent our comrades in that Lebanese village from cooperating with the Phalange in any joint action based on a demand made by that village, or on a general, specific, or democratic demand, e.g., against despotic arrests, martial law, the Palestine war, treaties, etc. We can and we must undertake such joint action. However, this does not mean that our comrades in the village should stop criticizing the Phalangist policies, their leaders, and particularly their sectarian tendencies, or should stop attacking or exposing the Phalange with determination. Absolutely not. It is our duty to continue the attack. Without these attacks the temporary 'agreement' on a specific action would deceive the people concerning the Phalange and lead them into thinking that its sectarian and pro-imperialist policy is sound.

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395 "This also applies to the attitude that our comrades could take in Tripoli toward the nationalist movements of the young people and 'Abd-al-Hamid Karamah's groups. It is possible to undertake joint action, concluding a temporary agreement with them on specific issues, without ceasing our attack against (Abd-al-Hamid Karamah) who agrees with (Camille Shamun) (the British agent), who keeps silent on the policy of treaties, who does not denounce the Greater Syria project, and who does not seriously resist despotism and reaction in Lebanon.

"In Syria, for instance, we could not decide in advance, or in principle, that our comrades in this or that Syrian village should refrain from concluding any temporary agreement or from undertaking joint action with the organizations of Hizb al-Sha'b (the Peoples' Party) because our Party attacks Hizb al-Sha'b on account of its ambiguous and crooked policy on the Greater Syria Plan, the fact that it favors economic penetration (the Tapline treaty, the currency agreement, etc.), indirectly advocates the union of Syria with Iraq, and denounces direct negotiations with Israel for establishing peace in Palestine. A temporary 'agreement' or joint action on a specific issue, however, cannot in any way cause our comrades to stop criticizing, exposing, and attacking the policy of the Peoples' Party.

"The same applies to al-Ba'th al-Arabi (the Arab Renaissance Party). Our student comrades sometimes cooperate with the young men of this Party and demonstrate with them (as they did during the November-December incidents in Syria). This does not prevent, and should not prevent, our Party and all our comrades from

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combatting this organization in the political field for its ambiguous attitude on imperialistic schemes, and in the intellectual field for its ambiguous, distorted, and indeed laughable invitation to socialism which is similar to the policy of the old 'populists' in Czarist Russia.

"Indeed, let us go farther than this. The greatest danger now threatening Syria is the Greater Syria Plan. This danger has been aggravated by the decisions reached at the Jericho Conference (annexing Arab Palestine to Transjordan). We are ready to cooperate on the basis of temporary 'agreements' with every political group for the purpose of resisting and combatting this danger and saving the entity of the Syrian Republic. This means that we have not decided in principle and in advance to refrain from every 'joint action' or temporary 'agreement,' even with the republican elements in Hizb al-Watani (The Nationalist Party)....."

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